മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങളെ പോലീസിൽ റെക്രൂട്ട് ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നില്ല. മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങളും മദ്യപാനികളല്ലാത്തതു കൊണ്ടു് അവരെ പോലീസിൽ എടുക്കുന്നതു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും നന്നായിരിയ്ക്കുമെന്നു് ചെറുതുരുത്തി മെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. മദ്യമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നവർ കടിക്കുന്നതു് കച്ചവടത്തിനു് ഹാനിയാണെന്നു കണ്ടിട്ടോ എന്തോ അവർക്കു കൂടി കുറവാണു്. അങ്ങിനെ ഈഴവരും മദ്യപാനമില്ലാത്തവരാണെ. അവരേയും റെക്രൂട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—Muslims are generally given preference as backward classes and every year Muslims are taken to the constabulary force. Only they are not coming forward in greater numbers.

Motion withdrawn with leave of the House.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,95,835 for Police by Re. 1.*

ഈ റിട്രെഞ്ചുമെന്റു കാലത്തു് ഒരു പുതിയ പോലീസ് സ്റ്റേഷൻ വയ്ക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ശരിയ്ക്കുണ്ടു് അതു സാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നു പറയും. ഇടക്കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഒരു പോലീസ് സ്റ്റേഷൻ വയ്ക്കേണ്ടുന്ന ആവശ്യമുണ്ടു്. ഈ സംഗതി കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾക്കും അറിയാം. ഇതിനു് പള്ളുരുത്തിയിലെ സ്റ്റേഷൻ ഇടക്കൊച്ചിയിലേക്കു മാറ്റിയാൽ മതി. പള്ളുരുത്തി സ്റ്റേഷൻ ഇരിയ്ക്കുന്നതു് മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയുടെ അത്തിക്കടന്നാണു്. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി സ്റ്റേഷൻ കൊണ്ടു് അവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യം നടക്കും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് പള്ളുരുത്തി സ്റ്റേഷൻ ഇടക്കൊച്ചിക്കു മാറ്റണമെന്നു് അപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The point will be considered. In fact there is already a proposal to shift the Cochin station to the Edakochi side. That would be a more central place also so far as the jurisdiction is concerned. The adjacent sea-board villages which show always a tendency to create breaches of peaces could be better controlled.

The motion was with leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and carried.

(7.) 13—Police—Cranganur—Rs. 7,284.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 7,284 under Police—Cranganur.

The Demand was put and carried.

(8.) 27—Public Works—Rs. 13,79,359.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I have great pleasure to stand here to-day to move for the annual grant for

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the Public Works Department. I have no doubt that the Members will pass my demand this year also with the same amount of confidence and trust which they have handsomely bestowed on this department for the past 8 years. Excepting for a cut which they have carried in regard to the construction of the pay-ward in the General Hospital, the Council have not hitherto been unkind to any of my demands. But that event has taken place at a time when the interests of the Medical Department unfortunately got interlinked with the famous Kuriarkutty incident and therefore it cannot be considered as any reflection on your humble servant.

It is but proper to survey the achievements of the Public Works Department for a series of years on times like this when we are moving you for fresh grants.

Perhaps the most important service that we give to the public is in regard to the construction and maintenance of roads. In the early period of the Council's history you will remember that we were severely criticised on the poor condition of the road surface. We then inaugurated a system of periodical renewals and worked steadily till we have reached the present stage when I can confidently state that the general condition of our roads is second to none among the roads of the other States or in British India.

Our roads, however, running as they do on land punctuated by hills and valleys, have necessarily to be winding and narrow. Our attention, hereafter, will be diverted in a greater measure, in the widening of the roads and straightening their bends that they may serve the needs of motoring requirements more satisfactorily.

Regarding the question of sufficiency of roads, it is impossible to decide or solve it finally. About fourteen years ago, Government appointed a Road Committee and they submitted a report cataloguing the different roads which they thought to be sufficient at that time. This included a list containing more than 200 works and I am proud to own that most of these works have been completed during this term of 8 years. We have not only done that, but constructed many more roads not contemplated in the list of the Committee. Special mention has to be made of the completion of that great trunk road to Nelliampathies which this Council has so graciously commissioned me to construct. The Chittanda-Thalasseri road is under good progress and the Vypeen-Pallipuram road is sufficiently well in hand. The Panan bridge has been completed this year. It forms the connecting link between places like Kanjiramittam, Amballur, etc. and the main land of Ernakulam. It is needless for me to recount all the bridges and roads which are taken up or execution as you would find the detail in the printed budget.

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Mention must, however, also be made of the bridge across Korayar river in Chittur Taluk which owed its existence from the forcible representation in the Council by Mr. Ambat Eachara Menon, Member for Chittur.

Again the exertions of the Member for Vellarapilli have produced the Chengalthodu bridge and the bridge across the Thalipara canal which latter has now been completed.

An important change which the Government have sanctioned according to my recommendation is the constitution of the Road Board. This Board have met 4 times during the year and they have very carefully gone into many road proposals. The minutes of their meetings have all been published in the Government Gazette and I am sure that all of you have perused it with interest and satisfaction. The list of road works considered necessary by the Board is so large that Government have ordered me to prepare a comprehensive list of roads in order of their importance and urgency. This is being attended to by me. And I hope to publish it for the information of the House by the beginning of the next year.

As I have already told you, the road construction programme which we had embarked during the last few years is so vast that it is impossible to see its consummation within a year or two. It is not possible to complete all these roads without starving the other needs of the Department from funds available out of General Revenues. If we have not shown a sufficient number of new road works in the budget of 1108, it is simply because we are continuing the spirited programme already inaugurated and not because we have been unmindful of the necessity for new roads. Yet, as one examines the budget, our programme for 1108 is one to be regarded with pride. The road from Karupadanna to Pulloot and to Cranganur is one of tremendous importance and will certainly help to add lusture to the achievements of this department.

At present the principality of Cranganur is totally isolated from the rest of the State and it consequently shows all the symptoms of an ill-developed tract. Proper education orderly behaviour, correct perspective of life, are generally found wanting in the general masses of the population. This road will help to remove these disabilities and bring Cranganur on a same level of culture as is seen in the other parts of the State.

Another important work we propose to take up next year is the completion of the Chelakkara—Elanad road. I recall the vehement attacks on this Department by the Member for Pazhayannur on the slackness shown by us in regard to this work. The Member for Chittur-Rural in the course of his remarks on

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General Administration touched upon the want of usefulness of the Karukakadavu road and characterised it as one which will benefit a certain Overseer of this Department. It is not our custom to build roads scrupulously avoiding giving benefit to any and the Member for Pazhayannur would support me when I say that this road would help not only the Overseer, but also to open up some of the rich lands in Talappilli Taluk.

Our activities in building is confined to the catering to the necessities of other Departments and as such, the policy in this section is controlled by those obtained in the several departments. It is not possible to present this budget without referring to the great construction programme which we have launched in connection with the Maharaja's College works. The foundations have been laid for the three Science Blocks of the College and the work is steadily progressing. It is our intention to complete all the works as per the recommendations of the University Syndicate within three years, that is, by the end of 1109. The educational requirements would be met by the construction of two more blocks of building costing about one lakh and the raising of the lower secondary school in Ernakulam to accommodate the High School classes. The site for play grounds has now been fixed as per the recommendations of the College Committee. The area proposed to be acquired will be 18 acres and this extent will be sufficient for all the requirements of sport.

Shifting of the reservoir demanded by the Syndicate, but which I personally consider to be totally unnecessary, is proposed to be done at the closing stages of the work. There is an impression that the hostel construction can very well wait in view of the fact that the students now prefer to live in private lodging in the interest of economy. If this be the case it will be possible to effect some savings from the project cost report.

The College construction programme is so great that it was not possible for us to show an equally generous building work in the other departments. Yet the Member for Kunnamkulam would have noticed the provision for an operation theatre in his constituency.

In the matter of Irrigation which occupies a high place in the activities of this Department, we have made signal progress. The Manapat reservoir which was originally a small storage tank, irrigating a few acres and that too most unsatisfactorily has been now transformed into a large reservoir irrigating hundreds of acres satisfactorily. The work has been completed and the new distributing channels constructed in the current year.

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The diversion of the waters of the Vadakkancheri river at Attur was completed and it is hoped that this work would be of lasting benefit to the people of that locality.

An important change in the administration of the irrigation section of this Department was the creation of a separate division with its head quarters at Chittur. This was made as per the repeated and forcible representations of our honoured friend the Deputy President and Member for Chittur. It was therefore possible for us to give better attention to the several irrigation systems in Chittur and as a result it is highly gratifying to know that the ryots have satisfaction. I have not heard any complaint at all from Chittur for the last two years and a general feeling of contentment prevails in that area. This irrigation branch has also completed the valuation of all the private irrigation systems in Chittur. This is with a view to see if it is possible to acquire them all and bring them under Government control and stop once for ever the chronic complaints of profiteering levelled against the landlords concerned. I am afraid however whether our present finances will admit of any definite action in this direction.

This irrigation branch has also completed surveys and prepared estimates for the diversion of the waters from the Pothundi and Peranda rivers. The work will be of great utility and will bring into cultivation more than 1,500 acres of land. The works will cost only about ₹5,000; but it was not found possible to include it in the next year's budget. This is sad, but I hope to be able to induce the Government to take these works up for execution at an early date.

Another important work of far-reaching consequences is the construction of the head works and distribution on the northern side of the Moolathara anicut.

We have completed the three sections of the Moolathara canal improvements and the results are very gratifying. Land irrigated by the Moolathara canal used to be the most affected regions in the Chittur Irrigation system. This position has now been changed and they are now as dependable as any other of the systems.

It is also sad that this work could not be continued next year to make the works already started absolutely complete. The cost will be only about Rs. 8,000, but I hope it will be possible to find funds for this also at an early date.

The Konath river scheme is seen again budgetted for next year. This work figured in our budget for the last four years, but it could not be undertaken pending the settlement of interstatal differences with Travancore. The end of these differences is in sight and I trust that I shall be able to complete it in 1103.

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The Karuvannur river was a problem to us whenever it is in floods. This House will remember that a comprehensive scheme was prepared by me in 1106 and the first stages of the work is now complete. I had the opportunity of watching its effects this year and I can say with confidence that it is proving to be of great benefit. In spite of a rainfall of the order of 3·5 inches which occurred on the 10th of July, the rise in the river was very small and well within the level which would destroy the crops of Thottipal and Parappukara. We had also the benefit of an inspection and scrutiny of these works by the Chief Engineer of Madras and I hope that his suggestions would be of use to us. His report has not yet been received and it is therefore not possible for me to say anything at present.

The Government on my recommendation have appointed a Committee this year to investigate into the desirability of extending the Kuttadan cultivation in Kole lands. It will be remembered that as far back as 1102 I had predicted on the advisability of extension of Kuttadan cultivation. The extent of this cultivation has been increasing year by year with the result that out of 16,000 acres of Kole lands about 6,000 have Kuttadan crops and it is expected that by next year 11,000 acres would be cultivated. The advantages of this kind of cultivation is directly to the poor tenants. The cost of cultivation is very small, since no expenditure has to be incurred for the putting of bunds or for any great bailing out of water. The Committee went into details regarding the several points connected with it. At its last meeting they approved of the cultivation in general.

This leads me directly to the diversion of the Chalakkudi river for the purpose of irrigating the Kole lands. This question is engaging the earnest attention of Government. It has become necessary for the Government of Travancore and Cochin to gauge the discharge of the river to come to a definite understanding as to what quantity of this discharge each Government is entitled to. We have opened negotiations with Travancore for the joint gauging of the river. This will take at least three years and the scheme will have to wait for that period.

Our Hydro-Electric development on the same river was reported upon by us in all detail and the work was also scrutinised by a firm of consulting Engineers. Mr. Hellstrom, a Swedish Engineer of great capacity, came from London and he studied the project at site with our plans. He was eminently satisfied with the suitability of our proposals and the accuracy of our survey and he has reported accordingly. The cost is estimated to be 64 lakhs for a generating capacity of 12 thousand horse power. Due to the stringency of funds and due to the

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fact that the big schemes of the Harbour and Railway are being vigorously pushed on at present the work would be delayed. But there is always possibility of inducing the Pykara power to be taken into the State so that the benefit of cheap electricity could be made available to the people as early as possible. And when our scheme is taken up it could be linked on to the Pykara scheme with mutual benefit. This interlinking of power stations is the most important feature of modern Hydro-Electric enterprises. By this means it becomes possible to supply power to other places from our system when we have no demand and supplement our own systems when our needs exceed the power of the installed plant. This banking effect of the interconnected systems will give a better lead factor which is so essential from a business point of view.

The Railway conversion work has been finally estimated at Rs. 80 lakhs and is in steady progress. The alignment is generally along the existing line except where the curvature is too great to allow for Broad-Gauge construction. At Cheruviruthy a diversion of two miles is contemplated and this will entail the construction of a new railway bridge across the Ponnani river. The line is proposed to be extended to Venduruthy and for this purpose will deviate from the existing line from Edappilli and will take a course south about a furlong to the east of the Chittur Road in the Ernakulam Town. The crossing of the backwaters to Venduruthy will take place at about the southernmost point of that island and then it will pass on to the proposed docks on the reclamation. The Harbour works are at present at a stand still, so far as new construction works are concerned. The Government of Cochin, Travancore and Madras are now anxiously considering the various aspects which the problem presents.

Coming to the Mechanical Department, the most important item is the Ernakulam water works. By the suggestion of this Council meters have been installed to all the houses in the distribution and we are already feeling the benefit of that measure. A decrease in pumping of about 4 hours has already been registered in spite of the fact that 10% more houses have been supplied in the town since last year and one more power of additional pumping is being done to meet the Mattancheri and shipping requirements.

I am not unmindful of the fact that there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction in the minds of the people of Ernakulam regarding the rates of supply and free allowance to houses. In deference to the wishes of the Meter Committee and particularly to those of the Member for Cheruviruthy, Dr. A R.

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Menon, the Government have generally agreed to give credit of all amounts collected within the town to the Municipality. This would free my Department and to a great extent this Legislative Council also of some amount of trouble. This has now become a question for the local Municipality alone to decide.

The Mattancheri water works have done real service to people during this year ; though I know that the supply ought to be augmented. We have now constructed 2 more barges and a tug and these will be of great help in mitigating the difficulty. One more barge is proposed for next year and so you will see that we are doing our very best in this connection.

The Palliviruthi Member ought to be congratulated for the extremely good work that he has done in bringing home to the Government the necessity of improving the water supply to Chellanam. Most of the work has been done and if there has been any delay it was due to the difficulty of obtaining lands for laying the pipe line. The Diwan Peishkar has been very kind and prompt in this matter and he has just now taken effective actions to give the lands to us.

We maintained the Trichur Water Works for the Municipality and I am glad to say that in spite of the severe drought of this hot season the supply held on satisfactorily.

The solution of the Nemmara and Aylore Water supply has been achieved a few years ago and no new work is being attempted at present.

Now, Sir, I have crossed the major portion of the ground legitimately falling under our responsibility and I have nothing more to say except to clear one misunderstanding which seems to have gained some credence in the minds of some Members. This is the question of lapses in P. W. expenditure.

In this connection it has to be remembered that what I promise now when I move for my part is a faithful interpretation of the several works budgetted for a year, so far as it lies in my power to do so. I would request you to judge my performance by the amount of works done and not only by the amount of money spent. I would ask you now to try to remember to study the budgets for the last 8 years and let me know what work once provided for has not been done. You would find none for which my Department was responsible. It may be that a road once budgetted had to be abandoned on account of public opposition and that would mean a 'Lapse' of fund. Even then such works would be few. So it will be seen that there is no real cause to say that there had been any lapses or shortcomings in the working of this Department in so far as we are up-to-date in the matter of execution of works. There may be some difference in the actual expenditure of a certain year and the corres-

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ponding budget amount, but that difference will be generally seen to be mostly due to savings accruing from tender deductions and economies effected by us in actual execution. So the House will understand that there have been no lapse of works, but only some savings in execution of works for which I deserve credit—not condemnation.

The cut motions on my budget are many and I do not therefore wish to take up more of your time at the present stage.

I have only to request you to be as generous as you had been all these years to give me the amount I am applying for.

I now formally move for a grant of Rs. 13,79,359 under 27—Public Works.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—On a point of information. May I know which is the site selected for play grounds for the College?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The site is between the hospital road and Padiath Thodu, but excluding a row of houses fringing the Thirumaladevaswam and Chittur Roads.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—With regard to metering, have the Government begun to collect the charges for excess water taken?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They have not yet begun to be collected. But we have sent the bills.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—From which month onwards will the collection take place?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—From the date on which meters have been fixed.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will there be any difference for different houses? Will it be a fixed rate for all the houses?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What we thought was that charges have to be collected from the dates on which meters have been installed.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will the rates be collected monthly or quarterly or yearly?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—According to rules it must be done monthly.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the work of the Korayar bridge be taken up this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have already started the work and we hope to continue it in 1108.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—But there is no allotment.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have also noticed it and I have addressed the Government in that connection.

Motion No. 1.

As the member was absent, the following motion was considered withdrawn.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,453 for subordinate Executive Staff by Re. 1.*

To remind the Government of their promise to improve the Chalakkudi road in Edakkunni Bazaar.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, I move *a reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment of Rs. 43,099 for Establishment under Public Works.* The object of my motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the very anomalous condition in which some of the subordinate staff of the Mechanical Department are working. I refer to those working in the barges. I believe there are about 20 persons working there on a very low salary and while those men who work similarly in the Government boats and other conveyances are made permanent and are eligible for pension, leave, allowances, etc., these poor people are practically put as day labourers. They are not entitled to any leave, pension or anything of the kind and they are sometimes ordered to work for ten hours a day. It is a very hard case which deserves the special attention of the Government. I had occasion to bring this to the notice of the Government at the last Standing Finance Committee meeting and Government promised to consider the question. Since then I am told that the supervising officer working with them in connection with the same barges has been made permanent and is now eligible for leave, pension, etc. Of course I am grateful to the Government for having accepted at least a part of my suggestion. Why not this be extended to these poor people whose present condition is rather hard, because Government ask them to work even for ten hours a day? My contention is that Government ought to have confirmed these poor people before they dealt with people drawing higher salaries. Of course the arguments advanced by the Government when I pointed out these points were, that it was a temporary staff and that they have not made up their minds whether they should make it permanent or not. What I wish to submit is that the Mattancheri water works has now become a permanent institution and they have also got the idea of supplying water to Chellanam at the earliest opportunity as the Chief Engineer was pleased to say and I am sure it has to be made a permanent institution, and if so, there will not be any justification for keeping these people in this condition. With these observations I commend this motion for the acceptance of the Government.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I perfectly agree with the Member in thinking that the staff attached to the barges is very much over-worked and that the conditions under which

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they work are not very satisfactory. They cannot take leave, because their pay is charged to the works. The fact that when the bridges across the backwaters to Mattancheri are constructed, the barge mode of transport of water will become unnecessary, has always stood in the way of making the staff permanent. In the case of the Mechanical Equipment Overseer he had put in 28 years of service and his work in the Department has been very satisfactory. So the Government thought that in his case a special consideration must be made and so he was made permanent. I am however considering whether it would be possible for me to give further help to the staff in the barges.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is the bridge from the reclamation to Cochin ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A cart bridge for vehicular traffic is proposed to be constructed from Venduruthi to Mattancheri.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Where will be the bridge ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Near the southernmost point of Venduruthi.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is it the southernmost or northernmost corner ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The southernmost corner.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—May I know how long this staff has been working ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—From December, 1928.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I understand that something was done in the case of Tramway servants. Were they made permanent ?

Deputy President.—The motion is regarding the staff of the Water Works. You cannot ask anything on Tramway now.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—There was a similar case there. I want only to know what was done to them.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not know exactly the details of service obtaining in the Tramway. But there is no comparison. The Tramway has been in existence for many years. We have begun to work in the barges only for the last four years and the Harbour works are expected to be completed within three years when the necessity for the barges might cease.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—What I say is, if you cannot make them permanent, let them be at least given the leave allowance and such other things. Anyhow I do not mean to

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press the motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 3

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, *I move for the reduction of Rs. 100 from Rs. 43,099 for Establishment under Public Works.* The object of my motion is only to point out that there is considerable delay in the execution of the Chellanam water supply scheme. The Honourable Member for Engineering congratulated me, but I do not deserve the congratulation, because it was my predecessor in office who was responsible for getting the work sanctioned. But I find that although an allotment of Rs. 40,000 was budgetted for last time no progress has been made, except that some pipes have been thrown here and there in Palliviruthi. Of course the Honourable Member was suggesting that there was some delay in acquiring lands. If that be so I should also blame the Honourable Member for Revenue, because we have passed almost one year and I do not think that our Land Acquisition Rules and Regulations require more than one year for the acquisition of lands. So that what I mean to say is that the work has been unnecessarily delayed. I see no provision made this year in the Mechanical budget for the continuance of the work. After all the congratulation looks very awkward both for the Honourable Member himself and for myself, if the work is to be left off at this stage.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Member would please refer to item No. 18 of the Mechanical budget on the last page.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I am sorry. Whatever it be, I want to know whether the Honourable Member could give me any assurance as to the time when the work would be completely carried out. It is a very urgent necessity and the work should be carried on as speedily as possible. I would like to know whether the Member could give me any idea as to when water would be available there and I should be thankful to him for that.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Hon'ble Member states that there has been some delay in the matter. I now understood that the land acquisition is over and that the lands have already been given in the charge of our Department. These should not be reason for any more delay in this work. The pump house for the Chellanam water supply is almost completed. It can be said therefore that we have completed the programme of work scheduled for this year. It will be

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remembered that the Chellanam water supply scheme involving the laying of almost 12 miles of pipe line is to be completed in 3 or 4 years. By the end of next year we should have completed about 50% of the works.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 4.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, *I move for the reduction of 100 rupees from the allotment of Rs. 43,099 for Establishment under Public Works.* My object in moving the motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the importance of having a canal right through the central portion of Palliviruthi to cut that place into two so that it may be used as a communication canal. That place, as some of you may know, is a very broad piece of land and access is not easily made to the central places. If a canal is opened it will help considerably to improve the trade of the place. I understand that several petitions have been made to the Government in this connection. Several representations in other directions have also been made. I would be for the time being satisfied if the Government would only carefully go into the question and see whether anything can be done. I shall be amply satisfied if the Government will look into the question and see whether any provision could be made in the next year's budget. I think Mr. Ayyappan also has sent in a cut motion for the same purpose. With these observations I move the motion.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I second it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The question has been considered by the Government as far back as 1930 when I had occasion to go and inspect the land and the alignments of the canal. There were two alignments proposed one near a certain oil mill and the other right across Palliviruthi. The cost of a canal was estimated to be Rs. 37,000 and the length will be about one mile and a furlong. A bridge with high embankments which would permit of boat traffic under it will have to be constructed across the Cochin-Aroor road, and this is estimated at Rs. 8,000. The land acquisition would come to Rs. 10,000. The cost of the whole work was roughly estimated at Rs. 37,000. And this canal will only serve as a short cut for the people living on one side of Mattancheri to go to the other side. So I held that in view of the present financial stringency and the claim of other works requiring more urgent attention this may be postponed. It is not also possible for me or for this House to say whether the work could be provided for in the Budget of 1109.

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Mr. George Chakyamuri.—All that I want is an assurance from the Government whether they would look into the matter and see whether any amount could be provided for in the Budget of next year. One complaint I have got is that the Chief Engineer is rather neglecting my constituency. We have been requesting for the water supply for the last so many years and nothing substantial has yet been done. Then again in the matter of construction of roads and the maintenance of roads no serious attention is paid as far as my constituency is concerned. When all these matters are taken into consideration I suppose this demand would be found to be rather modest. So taking into consideration that the Government spends practically nothing for my constituency from the P. W. D. section, I once more urge upon the Government to consider sympathetically the possibility of including the canal in the next year's budget. With these observations I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion withdrawn, with leave of the House.

Motion No. 5.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I am sorry I have taken much of the time of the Council. But whatever it be this is a matter which I must say I have been repeatedly asking for. After all the two roads for which I have been asking for, are rather small ones, one is only 3 miles and the other 9 miles. These are the two things which I have been asking for, ever since I became a Member of this Council. I started my request for the first time in 1100. Although I have been making repeated requests in this connection, I am so sorry to say that the Chief Engineer has been rather too unkind in this matter. I know he is generally kind, but I do not know the reason in this matter. Probably it may be that he does not know the difficulties experienced by the people. However I told him one day that if I make him walk along the existing *Veli* right across in Kumbalanghi he would certainly provide for it the next day. It is very difficult to walk along that *Veli* during the hot season. Some of your inspecting officers must be able to tell you that. It is as good as walking through a desert. There is already a public foot-path now. All that I ask for is metalling that place. Another road which I have been asking for would be 7 or 8 miles long from Palliviruthi. It would not be very difficult for the Government to provide for them, if they sympathetically view this matter. Last time I brought this matter to the notice of the Government and it was promised that it would be provided in the 1108 budget. The Chief Engineer was trying to evade them. But in the end he expressed that it would be provided in the 1108 budget. I

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thought that the Honourable Member would keep up his promise this time, but I find that he has forgotten my constituency this time also. I say it is rather unkind. Now it may be too late for getting this included in the budget. But I will be grateful to the Chief Engineer, if he would at least consider it next year. With these observations, I *move the reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment of Rs. 43,099 for Establishment under Public Works.*

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— Government have ordered the Registrar of Panchayats to attend to the metalling of the road in Kumbalanghi and they have asked me to prepare an estimate for making a road along the public lane to Chellanam. These works are therefore engaging our attention. I hope to complete the estimate of the road to Chellanam soon.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I am very grateful. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, with leave of the House, withdrawn.
The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.

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